

BASIC GRAMMAR PAGE 1

BASIC WORD ORDER

The sentence order is very different from English. In English we use Subject-Verb-Object (SVO) but in Japanese it is usually Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) - observe:

	S	V	O
ENGLISH	I	eat	bread.
	S	O	V
JAPANESE	watashi wa	pan o	tabemasu.

Don't worry! It isn't as bad as it seems. You will get used to it.

For more on this [go here](#)



DESU

Desu is a grammatical form that can act like *to be* (You know - is, are, am...) in English in the sense of **explaining who or what something / one is** or **equating one thing with another**. Let's take a look:

??? ? ??? ???
watashi wa kurei desu.
I **am** Clay.

?? ? ?? ? ? ?
*kore wa neko **desu.***
 This **is** a cat.

Most of the time you want to use the *to be* verb you will use *desu*. Later we will learn other forms to show existence.

MAIN POINTS:

- is, are, am
- always at the end
- It doesn't change like its English cousin (is, are, am) in the present tense
- usually pronounced like "dess" HEAR IT! 🎵 WAV 11 k






2 Basic verb forms ~ dictionary? ~ ? ?

There are many ways to change verbs, but here we will focus on 2 present tense forms "dictionary form" and "~*masu* form" **NOTE:** These 2 mean the same thing, but the dictionary form is a little more casual and shorter.

- The *dictionary form* gets its name because it is what is found in the dictionary.
- The dictionary form verbs ends in *-u* and many end in *-ru*
- The *masu* form verbs always ends in *-masu* in the present tense
- To keep this page as simple as possible, I am writing all examples (for other grammar points) in the *masu* form.

EXAMPLES:

? ? ? taberu		? ? ? ? tabemasu	Both mean "to eat"
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? ? nomu		? ? ? ? nomimasu	to drink
? ? ? hashiru		? ? ? ? ? hashirimasu	to run
? ? suru		? ? ? shimasu	to do (this is one of the irregular verbs)

You will probably see some other letter changes between the 2 forms. I won't go into this now. There is no need to complicate things. I think it is better to memorize the useful verb changes and eventually once you get a feel for the verbs you can 'guess' the correct form for unknown verb! And remember: Mistake making is memory making!



q4Making questions ?

Making questions in Japanese is easy! -- REALLY! Usually you can change a statement into a question by just adding a ? **ka** to the end!

? ? ? ? ?
nata wa amerikajin desu.
You are an American.



? ? ? ? ?
anata wa amerikajin desu ka
Are you an American?

MAIN POINTS:

- **ka** is added to the end of statements
- Word order is not changed as in English
- In Japanese (see right example) the ? (Question mark) is not required (optional)
- Just like in English, the last syllable goes up in intonation

✚ In spoken Japanese **sometimes** the *ka* can be dropped if you have the upwards intonation at the end. But for now, let's stick to using the *ka*

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



Question words

By mastering these question words, your conversational skills will be much stronger!

✚ ? ? *itsu* - when

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *itsu kimashita ka?* When did you come? [lit. when came?]

✚ ? ? *doko* - where

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *doko kara kimashita ka?* Where did you come from? [lit. where from came?]

✚ ? ? ? ? *doushite* - why

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *doushite kimashita ka?* Why did you come? [lit. why came?]

✚ ? ? *dare* - who

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *dare ga kimashita ka?* Who came?

MAIN POINTS:

✚ Even with the question word a ? *ka* is used. (Except in casual spoken Japanese)

✚ The question word is at the beginning, but after the ? *wa* if there is one.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

anata wa dare desu ka?

Who are you? (the question word *dare* is after the *wa*)

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



Possessive "'s" ?

This is another nice part about Japanese. To show relationship or possession between 2 things just put a ? *no* inbetween them. The trick is knowing which goes to the left of the *no* and which goes to the right...

Think of it as: ? => 's

私? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *watashi no* *neko* - My cat [I's cat]

私? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *nihon no* *kuruma* - Japanese car [Japan's car]

私? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *neko no* *omocha* - Cat's toy

Also think of:

? ? ? ? ? *watashino* as "my" and

? ? ? ? ? *anatano* as "your"



and ? ? ? ? ?

There are several ways to say "and" (connecting things). Let's look at 2 of them

? *to* - connecting nouns

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
watashi wa nihongo to eigo to furansugo ga hanasemasu.
I can speak Japanese and English and French.

? ? ? *soshite* - connecting phrases

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
watashi wa nihongo ga hanasemasu. soshite, doitsugo ga yomemasu..
I can speak Japanese and I can read German.



But ? ?

But, a small word, but... There are other "buts" but *demo* is the most common. Learn this first and you can pick the others up later.

? ? *demo* - but

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
nihongo ga suki demo, furansugo wa kirai desu.
I like Japanese, but I hate French.



Pronouns

Pronouns are not used nearly as much in Japanese as they are in English. Often the pronoun is used once and then after (until the topic shifts to someone else) the pronoun is dropped. Still they are very important!

Learn <i>watashi</i> and <i>anata</i> well	<i>tachi</i> and <i>ra</i> are endings that indicate plurality! Easy! :)
I - ? ? ? <i>watashi</i>	WE - ? ? ? ? ? <i>watashi tachi</i>
YOU - ? ? ? <i>anata</i>	YOU - ? ? ? ? ? <i>anata tachi</i>
HE - ? ? <i>kare</i> SHE - ? ? ? ? <i>kanojo</i> IT - IT isn't used but in IT's place <i>sore</i> (that) is often used -- Don't worry!	THEY - ? ? ? <i>kare ra</i>

NOTE:

- Another meaning of *kare* (he) is actually "boyfriend" and *kanojo* is "girlfriend"!
- When the meaning is obvious, the pronoun is usually dropped. Both of the following is clear in meaning:
watashi wa amerika kara kimashita. I came from America.
amerika kara kimashita. (I) came from America.

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



Fillers ? ? ?

In English, we have our "um." in Japanese, they have their "eeto." This is the sound you make when you can't think of what to say, but want to say something!

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
nan no doubutsu ga suki desu ka?
What animal do you like?

?????? ? ? ? ? ?
eeto... neko ga suki.
Um... I like cats.



Particles intro

In Japanese, grammatical parts of the sentence are shown very clearly by "particles." These particles are placed after the word (or phrase) they modify. The best way to learn to use them is to memorize useful examples and say them!

? wa - overall topic particle - shows the main topic of the conversation
[NOTE: it is a hiragana *ha* but pronounced as "wa"]

? ? ? ? ? ?
anata wa yasashii.
You are nice.
[Makes "you" the main topic]

? ga - the subject particle - sometimes the difference between *wa* and *ga* are hard to tell. Sometimes they can be used interchangeably with only a slight change in meaning. Don't worry about this now!

? ? ? ? ? ?
neko ga hen.
The cat is strange.
[Makes the "cat" the subject]

? o - The Direct Object particle

? ? ? ? ? ? ?

hon o yomimashita.

(I) read a book.

[NOTE: it makes "book" the object. If we were to say "I" it would be *watashi wa* at the beginning.]

? ni - usually shows movement (to)

? ? ? ? ? ? ? !

nihon ni ikimashou!

Let's go to Japan!

[There is movement *going to Japan*]

or shows time (at)

6 ? ? ? ? ? ? !

roku ji ni ikimashou!

Let's go at 6.

? de - Shows location (at, in)

? ? ? ? ? ? ? !

nihon de asobimashou!

Let's play (have fun) in Japan!

[Notice there is no movement]

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



if ? ?

For simplicity, I will teach you the "understandable but not totally correct" approach. To say "if..." start with ? ? *moshi*. To be "totally correct" you should also change the end of the verb to a ~ ? *ba*, ? ? *tara*, or ? ? *nara*. I will show you the "totally correct" but for now just concentrate on adding the *moshi*.

**SIMPLIFIED
UNDERSTANDABLE**

ENGLISH

**TOTALLY CORRECT
VERSION**

?? ? ? ? ? <i>moshi anata ga kimasu.</i>	If you come.	?? ? ? ? ? <i>moshi anata ga kitara.</i>
?? ? ? ? <i>moshi hare.</i>	If it will be sunny.	?? ? ? ? ? <i>moshi hare tara.</i>

Special useful phrases - you can ignore this if you want...

?? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

moshi yokereba...

If it is ok with you... [let's do this...]

?? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

moshi hoshikattara,

If you want (it), - when offering something to someone

[TOP](#)

Using ~ ? ?

The equivalent to Mr. or Mrs. or Miss. is ~ ? ?

USAGE: Right **after** the name. It is used even with friends. (Even when in English we wouldn't use "Mr.")

?? ? ? ? *kurei san* - Mr. Clay

? ? ? ? *yamada san* - Mr. (or Mrs...) Yamada

Other name callings: (used the same way)

~ ? ? *sama* - very polite - reserved for royalty, important people, and customers of stores

~ ? ? ? *chan* - used for young girls (*kiti-chan* = Hello Kitty)

~ ? ? *kun* - used for young boys

~ ? ? *sensei* - used for teachers [? ? ? ? ? ?
kurei sensei], doctors, and professionals

For now just use *san*. It is the most common.

[TOP](#)

BASIC GRAMMAR PAGE 2

Easy adjectives

There are 2 types of adjectives:

-i adjectives - adjectives that end in *-i*

-na adjectives - adjectives that add *-na* when placed before nouns

The *-i* adjectives change:

? ? ? *atsui* - (It's) hot || +i

? ? ? ? *atsukunai* - not hot || -i + *kunai*

? ? ? ? ? *atsukatta* - was hot || -i + *katta*

? ? ? ? ? ? *atsukunakatta* - wasn't hot || -i + *kunakatta*

Learn this and you can use all *-i* adjectives!

The *-na* adjectives don't change! But when placed before nouns they add a *-na*

? ? ? *genki* (healthy, active, fine) ➡ ? ? ? ? ? *genki na ko* (healthy child)

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



Past tense

For now let's stick with the *-masu* form of verbs

PAST = MASU ➡ MASHITA

? ? ? ? *tabemasu* (to eat) ➡ ? ? ? ? ? *tabemashita* (ate)

? ? ? ? *nomimasu* (to drink) ➡ ? ? ? ? ? *nomimashita* (drank)

**PAST NEGATIVE = MASU ➡ MASEN
DESHITA**

? ? ? ? *tabemasu* (to eat) ➡ ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *tabemasen deshita*
(didn't eat)

? ? ? ? *nomimasu* (to drink) ➡ ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *nomimasen deshita* (didn't drink)

■ The "-masen" is the negative part



Very ? ? ?

Sometimes mom's cooking isn't just *oishii* (delicious) it is VERY OISHII!

Add ? ? ? *totemo* before adjectives to say "very"

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
totemo oishii desu.
It's **very** delicious!

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
totemo ookina ki.
A **very** big tree. (to review -na adjectives)

OTHER VERY WORDS: You can ignore this if you like...

? ? ? *hijou ni*
? *chou* (kind of slang - *chou* means "super-")



To want ~ ? ? ? ?

Saying "I want (something)" is pretty easy. Just say the thing you want and add *ga hoshii* to it.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
nomimono ga hoshii desu.
 (I) **want** a drink.

NOTE: The *desu* is optional and is usually dropped. *nomimono ga hoshii.* is perfectly fine in spoken Japanese.

Next, let's ask a question. Can you figure out how to do it? That's right add a *ka*

[REVIEW HERE](#)

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
ke-ki ga hoshii desu ka?
 Do you **want** cake?



Want to do ~ ~ ? ?

First get the ~ ? ? *masu* form of the verb you want to do. Then drop the ~ ? ? *masu* and add ~ ? ? *tai*.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? **tabetai**
tabemasu (to eat) *tabe* (want to eat)

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? **nomitai**
nomimasu (to drink) *nomi* (want to drink)

? ? ? *shimasu* (to do) ? *shi* ? ? ? **shitai** (want to do)

Of course if you want to say "do you want to..." Just add *ka*

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
ke-ki o tabetai desu ka?
 Do you **want to eat** cake?





? ? ?

These 2 particles ? *wa* & ? *ga* both do what in English is the subject, but ? *wa* is greater in scope than ? *ga*

? *wa* - the main topic particle of the conversation

? *ga* - the subject particle of the sentence

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

watashi **wa** kurei desu.

I am Clay.

[Clay is the topic and now this is known, it won't be repeated unless the topic changes]

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

neko **ga** suki desu.

(I) like cats.

["cats" are actually the 'subject' here. Maybe this is easier to see "Cats are liked (by me). Note you could say "*watashi wa neko ga suki desu.*" but it is unnecessary because we have already said "*watashi wa*" (The topic is already known)]

■if both are in a sentence, the ? is first

■the ? is written with a hiragana *ha* but pronounced as *wa*

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



There is / There are

For *inanimate objects* (objects, plants...), end the sentence with ~ ? ? ? ? ? *ga arimasu*

? ? ? ?

ki desu.

It's a tree. [lit. tree is.]

? ? ? ? ? ? ?

ki ga arimasu.

There is a tree(s).

For living things (people and animals) use ~ ? ? ? ? *ga imasu.*

? ? ? ? ? ? ?

neko ga imasu.

There is a cat(s).

To show the negative just add *-sen* to the end

? ? ? ? *arimasu* ➡ ? ? ? ? ? ? *arimasen*

Another more casual form of arimasu that you don't have to learn now is...

? ? *aru* ➡ ? ? *nai*

? ? ? *imasu* ➡ ? ? ? ? ? ? *imasen*

Another more casual form of imasu that you don't have to learn now is...

? ? *iru* ➡ ? ? ? ? *inai*

Maybe you know these useful phrases:

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *onagai ga arimasu.* I have a favor to ask.

? ? ? ? ? *mondai nai.* No problem! [this is the casual form of *arimasen*]



To like... ? ? ?

It is easy to like something and to say it! Just add *ga suki* after the object that you like:

? ? ? ? ? ? ?

neko ga suki desu.

I like cats.

[note: Nouns don't change in number (no **s**) so it could mean "a cat". Also note the *desu* is often dropped in speech - "*neko ga suki.*" is fine!]



Why/Because ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

2 ways to say "why" are:

1. ? ? **naze** - why

2. ? ? ? ? **doushite** - why

They are basically interchangeable and start at the beginning of the sentence and are followed by the question

? ? (? ? ? ?) ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
? ?

naze (*doushite*) *watashi no ke-ki o tabemashita ka?*

Why did you eat my cake?

[There isn't a "you" but obviously you wouldn't be asking yourself this question.]

? ? ? ? + reason or excuse + *kara*

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

nazenara *hara ga hetta kara.*

Because, (I'm) starving!

[lit. because stomach is diminished]





I think ? ? ? ? ?

This goes at the end to show that you believe what you say, but are not 100% sure. It is also used to show one's opinion. If there is a *desu* change it to *da* which is the more casual form and add *to omoimasu*

1. The speaker is not totally sure of the accuracy of his info...

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
kuma no pu-san wa kuma da to omoimasu.
Winnie the Pooh is a bear, I think...

Next is an example of showing one's opinion. It is true for the speaker, but may not be so for the listener.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
nattou wa oishii to omoimasu.
I think Natto is delicious

Basically you can say any sentence and if you want to soften it or show you are not sure, or show your opinion add *to omoimasu*



Become ? ? ? ? ?

To show the state of becoming... something, use ~ ? ? ? ? ? *ni narimasu* The *ni* is placed after what is becoming something. The *narimasu* means to become. Nouns and *-na* adjectives use *ni narimasu*. *-i* adjectives are different, but for now there are enough useful nouns to look at:

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
yoru ni narimashita.
It has become night.
[~*mashita* shows past]

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
tomodachi ni narimashou.

Let's become friends.
[the ~*mashou* means "let's"]

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
genki ni narimashita.

(I) have become fine / healthy.



Also ?

? *mo* means "also" or "too" and like other particles, it is placed after the word it modifies. Let's see some examples:

PERSON A: ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
watashi wa neko ga suki.
I like cats.

PERSON B: ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
watashi wa neko ga suki, soshite inu mo suki.
I like cats, and I also like dogs.

[to review soshite; the *mo* after *inu* replaces *ga*. You can't say "*ga mo*"]

PERSON C: ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
watashi mo neko to inu ga suki.
I also like cats and dogs.

NOTE: ? ? *watashi mo* by itself means "Me too."



Making the ? form

If you know how to make this form, you can do a lot! Later we will look at other grammar points that are based on the *te* form. By itself the *te* form makes a verb a request (or demand)

1. ? ? *nomu* (to drink) ➡ ? ? ? *nonde* (drink)
2. ? ? ? *taberu* (to eat) ➡ ? ? ? *tabete* (eat)
3. ? ? *suru* (to do) ➡ ? ? *shite* (do)

These are the ways to make the *te* form for each of the **3 types of verbs**. If you are new to the "types of verbs" thing, don't worry. Now I know there are many grammarians out there that would argue against what I am about to say, but here's my advice. Don't worry about learning all the confusing rules about how to make this verb do that. Just say it as you feel it should be. Of course you will make many mistakes, but if you keep your ears open and learn from your mistakes you **will** get a feel for how the verbs work. Take the *te* form for an example. If you memorize the 3 examples at the top you should be able to *guess* what other verbs may change to. Or even if you guess wrong, the correct form should be at least familiar to you.



To do, play ? ? . ? ? ?

Suru is a very useful verb thingy. It is used *where no other verb dares to go!* (Foreign words, nouns, and other scary things...) Think of it as "**to do...**"

- ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *jogingu* **suru** - to (do) jogging
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *shoppingu* **suru** - to (do) shopping
? ? ? ? ? ? *sain* **suru** - to sign (autograph)

USEFUL JAPANESE + SURU

? ? ? ? *benkyou suru* - to study
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
mainichi, nihongo o benkyou shimasu.
Everyday, (I) am studying Japanese.

The ? o is the direct object marker. You will notice it moves around sometimes. Don't worry about this now, just concentrate on *suru*.

Another usage of ? ? -or- ? ? ? is "to play" as in sports or games

? ? ? ? ? *yakyuu o suru*. To play baseball.
? ? ? ? ? *sumou o suru*. To play (do) Sumo.
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *basuketto ba-ru o suru*. To play basketball.
? ? ? ? ? *shougi o suru*. To play shogi (Japanese chess)



more, ~er ? ? ?

One easy way to say "MORE" or "-er" is to add a ? ? ? *motto* before the thing you want to emphasis. This is one of the rare times that the word order is the same with English - or at least with the *more* part! Relish the moment (*while you can*)

{ *motto* ~ = more ~ }

■ ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *motto pi-man o tabenasai*. Eat more green peppers. [*~nasai* is like the *te* form in that it gives commands, but it is stronger.]

AND FOR THE:

{ *motto* ~ = ~er }

■ ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *motto hayaku itte kudasai*. (Next time) please say (it) a little earlier. [Useful when someone tells you **NOT** to cut the yellow wire of the bomb **after** you have done that...]



Can ? ? ? ?

There are a couple of ways to say "I can..." in Japanese. The easiest is ? ? ? ?
dekimasu. Let's look at how to form some sentences.

CAN + NOUN [? ? ? ?]

1 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *nihongo ga dekimasu*.
I can (speak) Japanese. [I can do Japanese.]

2 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *kanji ga dekimasu*.
I can (read/write) kanji. [I can do kanji.]

3 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *sukaidaibingu ga dekimasu*.
I can skydive.

CAN + VERB [? ? ? ? ? ?]

Actually, the above are all shortened versions without the verb. Let's add the verb. *koto* means thing, but here it is used to make a verb a noun so it will work with *dekimasu*.

1 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *nihongo o hanasu koto ga dekimasu*.
I can speak Japanese.

2 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *kanji o yomu koto ga dekimasu*.
I can read kanji.

Be creative and come up with things you can do!

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



-ing ? ? ?

This is a very important grammar point. It corresponds to the English "-ing" form

EAT ➡ EATING (now)

? ? ? ? ➡ ? ? ? ? ? ?

CONSTRUCTION: ? form + ? ? ? or ? ?

To learn more about ? form

Use this to describe things happening now.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *ima anata ni hanashite imasu*. (I am talking to you now.)

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *ima gohan o tabete imasu*. (I am eating rice (food) now.)

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *ima sukaidaibingu o shite imasu.* (I am skydiving now.)

To make a question just add ? to the end.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *anata wa benkyou shite imasu ka?* (Are you studying?)

FOR MORE ON THIS ...



For example ? ? ? ?

An anytime you want to make an illustration or give an example this is the phrase to use.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

watashi wa washoku ga suki desu.

I like Japanese style food.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

tatoeba, gohan to misoshiru .

For example, rice and miso soup .

You can also ask someone this to get more concrete information.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

tatoeba, nani?

For example, what?

FOR MORE POWER WORDS...



This ? ? . ? ?

This and that. Actually Japanese also has one more. They also have "that over there" - but we will get at that later.

There are 2 words in Japanese that are translated as "this" in English:

? ? *kore* - When "this" is not connected to a noun - *hang on you will get it in a minute*

?? ? ? ??

??

kore wa nan desu ka?
What is **this**?

?? ? ?? ?

??

kore wa neko desu.
This is a cat.

?? *kono* - When you put "this" before a noun, it changes to *kono*

?? ?? ?

?? ?? ?? ?

kono neko wa pochi desu ka?
Is **this** cat, Pochi?.

?? ?? ?? ??

? ? ?? ?

??

ie kono inu wa pochi desu.
No. **This** dog is Pochi.

HINT

To say "This is" or "is this" the *kore* will probably be followed by a ? *wa*

HINT

It may seem strange at first, but after a while This and That become second nature!



That ? ? . ? ?

This and that. Now we are on the THAT part. So this THAT refers to objects near the listener (not the speaker)

?? **sore - when "that" is not connected to a noun**

?? ? ?

?? ?? ?

sore wa nan desu ka?
What is **that**?

HINT

Begin to think of the words starting with K's as "this" and the S's as "that" words

? ? ? ?

? ? ?

sore wa neko desu.

That is a cat.

? ?

kono - When you put "that" before a noun, it changes to **sono**

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

? ?

sono neko wa pochi desu ka?

Is **that** cat, Pochi?.

HINT
This is
used in the
same way
as *kono*

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

? ? ? ?

ie sono tako wa pochi desu.

No. **That** octopus is Pochi.

[TOP](#)

That over there ? ? . ? ?

This and that. Now we are on the THAT OVER THERE part. So this THAT refers to objects **not** near the listener or the speaker.

? ?

are - when "that" is not connected to a noun

? ? ? ? ? ?

? ?

are wa nan desu ka?

What is **that over there**?

HINT
And now
recognize A's
mean That
over there

? ? ? ? ? ?

? ?

are wa neko desu.

That over there is a cat.

? ?

ano - When you put "that" before a noun, it changes to **ano**

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

HINT
Again they

? ?

ano neko wa pochi desu ka?

Is **that** cat **over there**, Pochi?.

ALL are
used in the
same way.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

? ? ? ? ?

ie ano kujira wa pochi desu.

No. **That** whale **over there** is Pochi.



Must do ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

This is a mouthful! But it is so useful. Learn it well

TO MAKE IT: masu form + ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? *nakereba narimasen*

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

pi-man o tabenakereba narimasen.

(I) must eat green peppers. (Many Japanese children don't like green peppers)

Say that 5 times fast with your mouth full!

Perhaps the most useful usage is:

~ ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

The ? *shi* is from suru (to do)

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

benkyou shinakereba narimasen.

(I) must (have to) study.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

shinakereba narimasen.

(I) must (have to) do (it).



? ? ? ? ? ?

When giving advice this is useful.

CONSTRUCTION: ta form (#3) + ? ? ? ? ? *hou ga ii*

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
yasunda hou ga ii.
 It would be better to rest.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
kiita hou ga ii.
 It would be better to ask (someone).

NOTE: The *ta* form is the same as the past tense. (But obviously it is not past here)



better / worse than ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

This has the same *hou ga ii* as above. But here we using it to compare things. Also we will introduce *yor* (less than).

其 ~ ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ~no *hou ga ii* (more than)

其 ~ ? ? ~*yor* (less than)

This is a little confusing if you think too much on this! But I suggest memorizing one or two examples and then you should be able to keep it straight.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
watashi wa inu yori, neko no hou ga suki.
 I like dogs less than cats. (I like cats more than dogs.)

You should spend some time studying the above example to understand how the ordering works.

Notice in English we use either "less than" or "more than" and the meaning is understood by the order of "dogs" and "cats" BUT in Japanese this is also ok:

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
watashi wa *neko* *no* *hou ga* *inu,* *yor* *suki.*



BASIC GRAMMAR PAGE 4

How... ??

Here is a very useful question word -- ?? *dou* -- Let's look at ways of using *dou*.

?? ?? ?? *dou desu ka?* **How** is (it)? [Use this for asking about food, or anything that is being done now]

?? ??? ?? *dou deshita ka?* **How** was (it)? [Use this to find out about past experiences - movie, last night's date, molded pizza you just ate...]

OTHER WAYS!

??? ?? ? *dou yatte?* How do you do it? [Ask this when you are not sure how to **do** something]

?? ????? ? ? *dou shimashita ka?* What happened? [Ask this if someone looks sad or something has happened]

???? ? ? *dou shiyou* What shall (I or we) do? [This is often used when you can't make a decision and want help... *doushiyou, ne!*]

?? ? ? ? ? *dou suru no?* What will you do? [When you want to encourage someone to make a decision -- Well, what will you do?]



Isn't it? ? ? ? ?

If you want to state your opinion and then encourage someone to agree, use *deshou*.

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ii tenki deshou. Nice weather, don't you think?

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? itai deshou? It hurts, doesn't it? [You see someone who has just slammed their]



said ? ? ? ? ? ?

If you



Negative verbs

If you



Negative adjectives

If you



Plan to ? ? ?? ??

If you



Punctuation ????

If you



Should ? ?

If you



Because II ? ?

If you



Although ? ?

If you



Using ?

If you



Easy to... ~ ? ? ?

It's easy to add "easy to" to verbs! Consider the following verbs in the masu form:

? ? ? ? *tabe masu* [to eat] ➡ ? ? ? ? *tabe yasui* [easy to eat]

Did you see that? If you know the *-masu* form of the verb, you can easily drop the *-masu* and add a *yasui*.

? ? ? ? ? *wakari masu* [to understand] ➡ ? ? ? ? *wakari yasui* [easy to understand]



Hard to... ~ ? ??

If "easy to" is easy to use (see above) then you would think that "hard to" would be hard to use. Well, they had to go and make it easy. Usage is the same as *-yasui* (easy to)

? ? ? ? *tabe masu* [to eat] ➡ ? ? ? ? ? *tabe nikui* [hard to eat]

If you know the *-masu* form of the verb, you can easily drop the *-masu* and add a *nikui*.

? ? ? ? ? *wakari masu* [to understand] ➡ ? ? ? ? ? *wakari nikui* [hard to understand]

